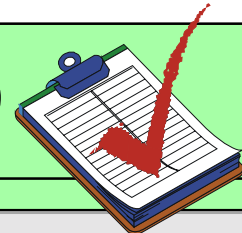


CHS CHECKUP



A publication by and for employees of the Kentucky Cabinet for Health Services

May 29, 2001

NEWS BRIEFS

VIRTUAL UNIVERSITY

The Commonwealth of Kentucky and the Council on Postsecondary Education present the Kentucky Virtual University (KYVU), a one-stop place for you to access quality online courses. Whether you seek a college degree, professional training or career development, online learning gives you the flexibility to meet your goals on your own terms — in your own home, at your own pace and at a time that best suits your busy schedule.

Visit <http://www.kcvu.org/> to learn more about these courses.



TIP OF THE WEEK

If you happen to be stung by a wasp or hornet, flick the insect away, and then apply ice cubes to the sting site. If a bee leaves its stinger in your skin, gently scrape it off with a blade or fingernail, and wash with soap and water. Apply ice wrapped in cloth to decrease absorption of venom. If a sting on a victim's face begins to swell, if there is shortness of breath, or some other sign of distress, get medical help immediately. People with a known severe allergy should carry adrenaline.

Central State Hospital Director Paula Tamme To Retire July 1

Paula Tamme, director of Central State Hospital, is retiring on July 1.

Tamme began her state career as a social worker in a state-operated psychiatric hospital. It only seems fitting that she end her years of state service as the top administrator of the same.

"It was a difficult decision to leave a job that I enjoy, working with people whom I respect, and a patient population that is important to me," Tamme said.

"Paula is the consummate leader. She has energy, vision, and passion. She leads by example and manages by results. At Central, and throughout her career, she has put her values into action and she has made a real difference in the lives of countless Kentuckians," said Margaret Pennington, commissioner of the Department for

Mental Health and Mental Retardation Services. "Her legacy is a strong management team, excellent clinical staff, and a hospital that lives its mission of being a premier mental health facility."

Tamme's seven-year tenure as Central State's director is greater than the combined sum of service for the facility's last three directors. She encourages Central State's employees to stop by and say goodbye between now and June 30, which is her last official day.

Of her time at Central State, Tamme says "I wish that every state employee would have the same opportunity I had...to have a job that was challenging, meaningful and fun. Each day, I left knowing the work done at CSH made a positive difference."



Governor Signs Order For Employee Advisory Council

Governor Paul Patton has signed an Executive Order establishing a process under his existing authority for classified employees of the Commonwealth to voluntarily select an employee organization to represent them on a Governor's Employee Advisory Council.

The Council will convene periodically and provide advice and recommendations to the governor concerning state employee/em-

ployer relations and discuss with the governor matters pertaining to wages, hours and other terms and conditions of employment that are within the governor's authority to decide or recommend to the General Assembly.

"This order does nothing more than provide a process for classified employees to have a voice in state government through the

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Advisory Council Established

voluntary selection of an employee organization to represent them on the Advisory Council," the governor said. "As much protection as the merit system provides for employees, there are still inequities in state employment policies. The major reason for my action today is that there is no mechanism for all employees to communicate their opinion of what is fair and reasonable treatment."

Under the order, classified employees under the direct control of the governor would be divided into nine categories of similar working interests such as clerical, labor and trades, administrative, employment and social services, health services, state police, corrections and parole, professionals and specialists and regulatory and inspection employees. Employee organizations would then be allowed to solicit a showing of interest from state employees as to whether they desire representation on the council. If an employee organization can garner the interest of at least 30 percent of the workers in any category, then it would take 50 percent of those interested workers to approve that organization as the groups representative on the Advisory Council.

Governor Patton emphasized that state employees aren't required to join one of the employee groups, nor can they be coerced or unduly influenced in any way to join. "This order is not a process for traditional collective bargaining

because there are no requirements for dues, or provisions for negotiations or binding arbitration," the governor added. "While dues are not mandatory, employees can agree in writing to a voluntary payroll deduction of membership dues or fees to a certified employee organization."



The results of discussions of the council with the Governor will not have any effect on the rights and responsibilities of state employees in the state merit system.

The order doesn't apply to employees of Kentucky's elementary, secondary and post-secondary schools or employees of other constitutional officers. There won't be any tax increase under this order and its cost can be absorbed within the current budget.

Patton stated, "I say to state employees, I appreciate what you do for the people of Kentucky and what you have done for me and my administration. It's not for me to say that you want or need such an organization. I'm saying that if the majority of employees of any of the nine employee units established in the Executive Order want an organization to represent them then I will recognize that organization and in good faith, will listen to your concerns."

The complete text of the Executive Order may be viewed at the following website: www.state.ky.us/agencies/personnel/pershome.htm

State employees with questions can get answers by calling the Labor Cabinet at 1-800-704-3573.



Olmstead Public Hearings Set For June

Kentucky's Olmstead State Plan Committee has been meeting since November to develop Kentucky's response to the U.S. Supreme Court decision involving people who were receiving treatment in a state psychiatric facility.

That decision said it was a violation of their civil rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act to not transition these individuals when: 1) their treating professionals determined that they could be treated in a community setting, and 2) the individuals did not object to the transition.

The Kentucky Developmental Disabilities Council is sponsoring a series of public forums on the Olmstead decision. Here is a list of the forums for June:

June 2 - 10 a.m.- noon - Central State ICF/MR, 10510 LaGrange Road, Louisville.

June 9 - 10 a.m.- noon - Western State Hospital Training Center, 2400 Russellville Road, Hopkinsville.

June 16 - 10 a.m.- noon - Boyd Nursing & Rehab Center, 12800 Princeland Road, Ashland.

June 19, 3-5 p.m., Barren River Regional Conference Center, 177 Graham Ave., Bowling Green.

June 23 - 10 a.m.- noon - Somerset Community College Student Lounge, Meece Hall, 808 Monticello Road, Somerset.

For more information call Jim Kimbrough, at 859-257-9023 or 502-564-4527.



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